

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

IO-13 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10

NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-10

OIC-04 DOTE-00 H-03 M-03 A-01 SY-10 USSS-00 AID-20

TRSE-00 JUSE-00 OMB-01 SCA-01 RSR-01 /208 W

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R 081835Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ETRN, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ICAO EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY/DIPLOMATIC
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 154149

1. WE DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL) TO MELLON AND COHEN, FCO, ON AUGUST 7. BOTH THOUGHT US PAPER MODERATE IN TONE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN NATURE. THEY UNDERTOOK TO CIRCULATE US PAPER TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN UKG.

2. WE FOUND UK POSITION UNCHANGED FROM THAT SET FORTH DURING HUFFMAN VISIT TO LONDON (REPORTED PARIS 19419) AND EXPLAINED TO ASST. SECRETARY POPPER JULY 25 (LONDON 8595). BRITISH ARE NOT, AT LEAST AT THIS TIME, WILLING TO SUPPORT THE TWO-STAGE APPROACH AT ROME MEETINGS WHICH US IS ADVOCATING. MELLON AGAIN INDICATED, HOWEVER, DESIRABILITY OF SOME FORM OF JOINT US/UK CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON STRATEGY FOR ROME IN EVENT DEVELOPMENTS AT

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MEETINGS WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE ONLY ONE PROPOSAL HAD

CHANCE OF SUCCESS. IF US INTERESTED IN SUCH TALKS, MELLON SUGGESTED UK MIGHT BE ABLE VISIT WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. ALTERNATIVELY, HE SAID DELEGATIONS COULD GET TOGETHER IN ROME BEFORE STARTING DATE OF CONFERENCE/ ASSEMBLY. MELLON WILL ARRIVE ROME AUGUST 25 AND CAN BE CONTACTED THERE THROUGH TERRANCE WOOD, BRITISH EMBASSY, ROME.

3. MELLON SAID HE HAD TALKED RECENTLY WITH BELGIANS AND DUTCH. FORMER HE ACCUSED OF "FUZZY THINKING" ON ROME MEETINGS. MOK OF NETHERLANDS HAD TOLD HIM, MELLON SAID, THAT DUTCH-PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO UK-SWISS-FRENCH PROPOSAL HAD NOT BEEN FULLY CLEARED WITHIN GON BEFORE IT WAS SUBMITTED AND GON NOT FULLY BEHIND IT.

4. UK APPARENTLY DOES NOT HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING VIEWS OF ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES. THEY ARE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT NIGERIAN ACCESSION TO MONTREAL CONVENTION AND BY WORD THEY HAVE FROM ALGERIANS THAT GOA "WILL NOT BE AS INFLEXIBLE" AT FORTHCOMING ROME MEETINGS AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN RECENT PAST. UK ALSO WATCHING CAREFULLY MANNER IN WHICH LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DEALS WITH JAL HIJACKERS AS POSSIBLE INDICATOR OF ARAB INTENTIONS AT ROME.

5. MELLON SAID UK INTENDS PRESS AHEAD WITH JOINT UK/ FRENCH PROPOSAL TO MODIFY RULE 20 OF CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE TO REQUIRE TWO-THIRDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF ATTENDING STATES FOR APPROVAL OF ANY INDEPENDENT CONVENTION. HE EVINced SOME CONCERN THAT ICAO COUNCIL HAD NOT VOTED TO APPROVE AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY SINCE THIS MIGHT MEAN ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE TO PERFORM ITS WORK IN PLENARY SESSION ALSO REQUIRING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. HE SAID UK MAY ASK US SUPPORT FOR GETTING ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT LESS CUMBERSOME RULES OF PROCEDURE SUCH AS ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WHICH COULD FUNCTION WITH A SIMPLE MAJORITY. ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO SUCH INDICATION, SLIM POSSIBILITY MIGHT EXIST THAT UK WOULD TRADE-OFF ITS RULE 20 PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT IN CREATING A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN ASSEMBLY.

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6. COMPOSITION UK DELEGATION EXPECTED TO BE: ARNOLD KEAN (CAA), CHAIRMAN; MELLON, CHAMBERLAIN AND COHEN (FCO) GREEN (DTI) AND CHIPPINGTON (CAA).

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